REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated September 24, 2003, having a shortened statutory period expiring on December 24, 2003 wherein:

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-56 were previously pending in the application; and

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-56 were been rejected.

In the present response to Office Action, no claims have been added, canceled, or amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-11, 13-56 remain currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 and 12, indicated in the present Office Action as pending but withdrawn from consideration, have been canceled and request that all future Actions reflect this status.

Examiner's Response to Applicants' Arguments

In the present Office Action the Examiner states in responding to prior remarks (Applicants' Preliminary Amendment dated July 22, 2003) regarding Applicants' claim 1 that,

> Yunoki clearly teaches the teleconference system comprises a teleconference registration device for registering, notifying all teleconference participants of the teleconference and for responding to a status confirmation request for the date and time of the teleconference run. A teleconference run device holds a teleconference by automatically connecting all attending teleconference participants online on the date and time of the teleconference run registered by the teleconference registration device run (col. 5 line 28 to col. 6 line 5, and col. 6 line 61 to col. 7 line 47)....Therefore, the examiner asserts that APA does teach or suggest the subject matter broadly recited in independent Claims 1, 11, 24, and 39.

Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse as follows. Applicants submit that U.S. Patent No. 5,408,518, issued to Yunoki (hereinafter, "*Yunoki*") fails to teach "directing a token generator to issue a token to the first network station client" and/or "adding the first network station client to the conference call when the first network station client accepts the persistent invitation to join the conference call utilizing said token" as claimed. (Applicants' claim 1)

Yunoki teaches an exchange for automatically holding a teleconference, the exchange comprising a switching matrix, a VRE (Voice Response Equipment) unit having a recording function, and a call processing unit, in addition to a SCP (Service Control Point) for executing IN (Intelligent Network) services such as a teleconference service provided outside of the exchange. *Yunoki* (Column 2, Lines 32-47, emphasis supplied) further teaches that,

> The SCP comprises <u>a teleconference registerer for registering in its internal database teleconference data</u> (the participants' names and the date and time of the teleconference run) dictated by a terminal (used by the teleconference sponsor) connected to the exchange, <u>for answering the inquiry from a teleconference participant about the specifics of the teleconference</u> by reading the pertinent data from the database, <u>and for deleting from the database the name of a participant absenting the teleconference after notifying the attending participants of his/her absence</u>.

More specifically, *Yunoki* teaches a teleconference reservation notifier which "notifies the teleconference participants dictated by the call originating subscriber of a teleconference run" by emitting "a call reception instruction for a teleconference participant, including a message e.g. regarding the date and time of the teleconference run" and a teleconference status confirmer which notifies a teleconference sponsor or teleconference participant of the date and time of a teleconference run, in response to an inquiry (see *Yunoki*, Column 5, Lines 61-68 and Column 4, Lines 47-50). *Yunoki* further teaches that in the event of a teleconference cancellation, the teleconference reservation notifier notifies respective participants of the teleconference cancellation on receiving a cancellation request from the teleconference sponsor, and deletes the teleconference data from the database. (*Yunoki*, Column 3, Lines 23-28)

Applicants can find nothing within *Yunoki* however which teaches or even suggests that anything previously provided to a teleconference participant is utilized by the teleconference participant to "accept" a persistent invitation to join a conference call. Rather, according to the teaching of *Yunoki*, "on reaching the reserved date and time of a registered teleconference, <u>a teleconference executor in the SCP automatically puts all the attending teleconference participants online</u>." (*Yunoki*, Abstract, emphasis supplied, see also *Yunoki*, Column 8, Lines 55-68)

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Yunoki teaches further in fact a teleconference absence notifier which, "notifies other teleconference participants of a subscriber's absence from the teleconference and deletes his name from the database, on receiving an absentee's request for an absence notification." (*Yunoki*, Column 4, Lines 52-56, emphasis supplied)   A subscriber requesting such an absence notification would consequently not be "automatically" put online or connected at the reserved date and time of the registered teleconference and *Yunoki* fails to teach any way by which such a subscriber could subsequently be added without completely re-establishing a teleconference run.

Applicants therefore submit that *Yunoki* fails to teach accepting a persistent invitation to join a conference call utilizing any data, messages, or instructions previously provided to the teleconference participant. Consequently *Yunoki* cannot be construed as teaching "adding the first network station client to the conference call when the first network station client accepts the persistent invitation to join the conference call <u>utilizing said token</u>" and/or "directing a token generator to issue a token to the first network station client in response to user input to a second network station client" as claimed. (Applicants' claim 1, emphasis supplied)

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the present Office Action, Claims 1-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Yunoki*. While not conceding that the cited reference qualifies as prior art, but instead to expedite prosecution, Applicants have chosen to traverse the claim rejections as follows. The following arguments are made without prejudice to Applicants' right to establish, for example in a continuing application, that the cited reference does not qualify as prior art with respect to an invention embodiment currently or subsequently claimed.

Regarding Applicants' claim 1, the present Office Action states that,

> Yunoki teaches and describes a system and method for adding a network station client to an ongoing conference call, comprising: -extending a persistent invitation to a first network station client to join a conference call in response to a determination that the first network station client is unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation to join the conference call, wherein said extending comprises, directing a token generator to issue a token to the first network station client in

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response to user input to a second network station client (Fig. 1, col. 4 line 30 to line 61, col. 5 lines 28 to col. 6 line 5, and col. 6 line 61 to col. 7 line 47); and – adding the first network station client to the conference call when the first network station client accepts the persistent invitation to join the conference call utilizing [said] token (Fig. 1, col. 2 line 15 to line 48, and col. 4 line 38 to col. 6 line 25)

Applicants respectfully disagree. For the reasons stated previously herein, Applicants respectfully submit that *Yunoki* fails to teach, "directing a token generator to issue a token" and/or "adding the first network station client to the conference call...utilizing said token." Applicants further respectfully submit that *Yunoki* fails to teach "extending a persistent invitation" as required by Applicants' claims. (Applicants' claim 1)
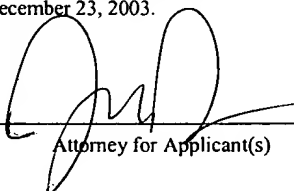
Applicants respectfully submit that although *Yunoki* teaches a teleconference absence notifier as previously described, *Yunoki* fails to teach "persistent" or "non-persistent" invitations and/or extending any invitation to join a conference call to a network station client in response to a determination that the network station client is unavailable as claimed (Applicants' claim 1). Rather, as clearly shown above, the cited portion of *Yunoki* teaches the deletion of a subscriber from a teleconference and notification of teleconference participants of the deleted subscriber's absence from the teleconference on receiving an absentee's request for an absence notification.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is allowable over *Yunoki*. Applicants' claims 3-10 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least those reasons stated for the allowability of that claim. Applicants' claims 11, 24, and 39 contain one or more limitation substantially similar to those of claim 1 and are therefore, along with corresponding dependent claims 13-23, 25-38, and 40-56, similarly allowable for at least those reasons stated for the allowability of that claim.
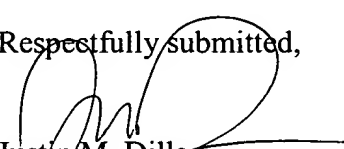
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5080.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 23, 2003.

_____   12-23-03
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Respectfully submitted,

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